



NAEP 2011-2012

In Your Private School

What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an essential measurement of student achievement in the United States.

- NAEP, first administered in 1969, is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing.
- The schools and students participating in NAEP represent other schools and students across the country.
- NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. From developing frameworks and questions to the reporting of results, NAEP represents the best thinking of assessment and content specialists, state education staff, and teachers from around the nation.
- NAEP reports on student achievement nationally at public and private school levels. Individual school and student names are never identified.

Why assess private schools?

Private schools represent approximately 24 percent of schools in the nation and educate about 10 percent of the students. Without participation of private schools in NAEP, trends in student achievement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels would be incomplete. Private school results make an important contribution to the picture of U.S. education and to future policy decisions. In fact, NAEP results consistently show that the performance of students in private schools compares favorably to students in public schools and the rest of the nation's schools.

Information specific to private schools is available on the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.asp>. NAEP has the support of many private school organizations, including the National Catholic Educational Association and the Council for American Private Education (an umbrella organization for many private school groups).

The NAEP Program for 2011-2012

Beginning in October 2011 and continuing through May 2012, NAEP field staff will administer the long-term trend assessments in mathematics and reading. The results collected can be linked to NAEP assessments conducted in the early 1970s to measure progress over time. The age samples for the long-term trend assessments are 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds. The assessment window for each age group is as follows:

- Age 13: October 10, 2011 – December 16, 2011
- Age 9: January 9, 2012 – March 16, 2012
- Age 17: March 19, 2012 – May 25, 2012

In addition, from January 23 through March 2, 2012, NAEP field staff will administer the following:

- Grade 12: Economics and pilot assessments in mathematics and reading
- Grade 4: Writing computer-based pilot

What is involved?

Most students spend approximately 90 minutes in the assessment session; the grade 4 writing assessment can take up to 120 minutes. Students are asked cognitive questions on subjects they encounter every day and are also asked for contextual information, such as, the amount of reading they do and what types of classes they take. In the age 13 schools, principals and some teachers will be asked to complete a questionnaire.

A NAEP representative will work with the person you designate as your NAEP school coordinator to plan assessment day logistics. On the day of the assessment, the NAEP team brings all the assessment materials, including laptops, if applicable, administers the assessment sessions, and removes all materials from the school.

What are the responsibilities of the NAEP staff?

NAEP representatives work directly with schools and are responsible for:

- Confirming the assessment date with the school
- Providing schools with instructions for preparing a list of eligible students for sampling students to participate in the assessment
- Providing schools with information about notifying parents of selected students
- Sending a Preassessment Packet of information to the school coordinator
- Visiting the school coordinator shortly after the packet is received to finalize assessment arrangements
- Bringing all assessment materials to the school on the scheduled day
- Conducting the assessments
- Responding to questions from the school throughout the assessment period

What are the responsibilities of the principal and school coordinator?

The principal will be responsible for:

- Including the NAEP assessment date on the school calendar
- Designating a school coordinator to work with NAEP staff and to prepare for the assessment
- Informing school staff about NAEP and why participation is critically important

The school coordinator will be responsible for:

- Confirming that the suggested assessment date is convenient for the school
- Securing space for the assessment to take place
- Working with the NAEP representative to provide a list of eligible students in order to draw a random sample for participation in the assessment (Student names will always be kept confidential.)
- Informing parents
- Receiving the Preassessment Packet and beginning final preparations for the assessment
- Meeting with NAEP staff during the scheduled preassessment visit to discuss the final details of the assessment
- Ensuring that students attend the session on the assessment date

“Private schools have participated in NAEP for decades, and the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) supports NAEP and encourages your participation.”

– Joe McTighe, Executive Director, CAPE

For more information about NAEP, visit:
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>